

INTERIOR OF HOUSE IN THE BUTTER MARKET, IPSWICH.

The very singular mansion, of which an illustration is here presented, is situated in a street in Ipswich, formerly used as, and still named, the Butter-market.

The building is ascertained to have been erected by one Geo. Copping, a builder, whose initials exist over the doorway, and are also to be seen, in conjunction with those of his wife Mary, over the mantelpiece of the present drawing-room, with the date, 1567, over a door next the mantelpiece. In 1573 the house was sold to R. Sparrow (son and heir of John Sparrow, of Soetersham), one of the Portmen of Ipswich. It has always been occupied since by one of his descendants down to the present owner and occupier, John Eddowes Sparrow, a respected solicitor. The family vault, which is in the neighbouring church of St. Lawrence, is, in the quaint humour of former times, inscribed *Nidus passerum*.

The façade extends to 70 feet; and the basement presents a series of cinque-cento caryatides, with festooned capitals of fruit and flowers, between which, except in the door spaces, windows and worked panels range alternately. As usual in old timber-framed houses, the upper floor projects, and has four bays, each of which is adorned at its base with a rude figure and emblem, representing, respectively, Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. Cinque-cento pilasters, coupled by festoons, with devices between their bases, at first existed in the three centre spaces between the bays; but at a later period, the middle space has been ornamented with the arms of Charles II., whose memory is linked with the house in what would, at first view, seem a somewhat legendary style. There is but one pilaster between the eastern window and that end of the front, but towards the west there are again two pilasters, connected by groups of birds at top and bottom. A bold cornice, so deep as to afford a safe promenade, extends along the front and returns on the west end; and the roof is broken by four gabled attic windows, one over each bay, enriched with cupids in various attitudes. No chimneys are visible. The west end is ornamented with an uncouth figure of Atlas supporting the globe, just below which is a rude representation of the classic scene of Tityrus reclining under the beech, and Melibæus politely approaching, hat in one hand and staff in the other, followed by his sheep. Above is a false attic window, with a representation of St. George and the Dragon.

"The interior of this singular structure," says Mr. Wodderspoon, in his 'Historic Sites of Suffolk,' "contains several extremely fine rooms. The dining-room is closely panelled in dark oak, carved in a manner which would do honour even to the great genius of Grinling Gibbons. The fireplace, furnishing capacious chimney corners, exhibits the finest parts of the carver's skill in wreaths of vine and pendant fruits. In the centre protrudes a strong bas-relief of the arms and crest of the Sparrow family, and on each side are panels inlaid in fanciful designs. A door to the right of the fireplace also exhibits some fine inlaying and carving; and the beams of the room—an unusual circumstance—are so deeply chiselled as any portion of the wainscot. The dimensions of this room are 22 feet by 21 feet; and although the apartment is, from the lowness of the ceiling, and its dark lining, rather sombre to the eye; yet it is one of the finest rooms of its size in Ipswich. Upon the first floor spreads an apartment more fitting for the mansion of a nobleman than the residence of a private individual. It extends over the whole of the front part of the house. The ceiling is traversed by heavy oak beams, and divided into compartments ornamented by ponderous wreaths of fruit. The corners are filled with shields containing the crests of the family. The dimensions of the room are 46 feet by 21 feet. [Several old paintings hang in this apartment; among others, a portrait of James I., strikingly historical in its character.] In a bed-chamber, adjoining this room, the ornaments are changed, fleur-de-lis being substituted for the usual garlands of fruit and family badges. No reason has been assigned for this." A small door in one corner of the

large apartment opens upon a staircase leading to the roof of the house, from which issues a doorway to the leads over the wide eaves of the building.

Late in the last century," continues Wodderspoon, "a singular discovery was made in the upper story of the house, being nothing less than a concealed loft, without doubt forming the roof of a chapel, the body of which existed in a room immediately beneath. The existence of this apartment was discovered by the merest accident, the connection between the loft being separated by a built-up wall. Time and damp, however, displacing a portion of the plaster, the light of day found its way through the cranny, and the place was discovered. The arched timbers of a slightly ornamented roof exist within it; and at the time of its being opened the floor was strewn with wooden angels, and such figures as usually serve to decorate a Catholic oratory."

There exists a tradition that Charles II. was concealed in this hidden part of the chapel, during one of his many attempts to escape after the battle of Worcester. The tradition is countenanced by the family having in their possession portraits of his father, mother, and grandfather, a half-length of himself, presented by him, and more especially by a miniature and locket of Charles, and a miniature of Mrs. Lane, also presented by the king to the family."

The premises attached to the house were at one time very extensive; and there are some parts about the courtyard of the building, which is now the back entrance, that deserve further attention from antiquaries,—the character of some reliefs on one of the walls pointing to a much earlier date than that ascertained for the present part of the building.

T. S. G.

PROFESSIONAL REMUNERATION.
FOWLER V. DEACE.

THIS was an action tried February 6th, in the Court of Exchequer, against the magistrates of the county of Devon, for the residue of a claim of 534l., for the erection of the County Lunatic Asylum.

It appeared from the evidence of the Earl of Devon and Lord Courtenay, that Mr. Fowler was the successful competitor out of about sixty, whose designs had been submitted to Mr. Hardwick, who reported fully upon their respective merits. Having appointed Mr. F. their architect, the magistrates proposed to him that he should accept a less remuneration than the usual commission of 5 per cent., which he declined. At a subsequent meeting they admitted that the commission was proper, but wished to limit it to a definite amount of outlay, which was fixed at 40,000l., and to this Mr. F. eventually consented. In the course of the building many additional works were executed beyond those contemplated at the time of the agreement, as was proved by the reports of the committee to the quarter sessions, in which they so state and ask for additional grants of money to cover expense; and it was proved by the builder that the contracts for such additional works amounted to 7,954l., besides about 10,000l. for extras upon the original contract. The site had not been fixed upon when the design was made. The whole question turned upon the construction of the agreement, viz., whether the additional works for which the further claim of commission was made, were contemplated at the time, and included in the words "all extra works." Mr. Tite was called to give the proper and professional interpretation of the word "extra," but the Chief Baron took it upon himself, and by illustration of a supposed case confirmed the view insisted on by the plaintiff.

The counsel for the defendant called no witnesses, but relied upon a statement which had been sent in with the original or competition drawings, explaining what was contemplated in them, or what they might be made to embrace, but these documents had been superseded by amended plans made agreeably to suggestions of Mr. Hardwick, and which are referred to in the preamble to the agreement, and formed the basis of the understanding. Mr. Crowder made a speech of two hours and

a quarter, almost wholly upon this ground, but the Judge, in summing up the case, showed that the additional works claimed for, were not included, or contemplated, and left it to the jury whether the plaintiff was not entitled to recover 394l., being the commission on the additional works proved by the builder. His lordship also made some observations in his address to the jury, in regard to the practice in liberal professions, and that of remunerating architects by a commission on the outlay, clearly justifying that course. Considering these remarks interesting, we have obtained the short-hand writer's report of them.

The Chief Baron (Pollock), in summing up, observed, the case had lasted a long time, but the point was about the shortest one possible, and ought to have been decided four hours ago; it was simply whether or no Mr. Fowler was entitled to the sum he claimed. It was an action of assumpsit with work and labour; the defendant pleaded payment, and the question was, whether the plaintiff had been paid; it was, he believed, a question entirely for the jury.

It would seem the parties met together on the 6th of August, 1841; Lords Devon and Courtenay were present with others on that occasion, but they were the only two persons out of all who were present who had been called as witnesses; they had given their versions of what passed. On that occasion the resolution the jury had heard read was entered into, and the question really was, what was the meaning of that resolution with reference to all the circumstances. He (the Chief Baron) did not think it was a question of law, but a question of fact for them. So he thought the case the learned counsel for the defendant had cited as occurring before Lord Tenterden—that was not a question of law but of fact. He (the Judge) did not quite enter into some of the opinions that had been occasionally expressed by very eminent judges both before and in his time as to the charges of surveyors; he could not say he saw with the same jealousy which he had frequently heard expressed on that bench, and others, the charges made from year to year, and from time to time, of so much per cent. as the remuneration of the architect or surveyor. He did not think the present system would have continued for so long a series of years as it had, if it had not been found consistent with the duties of the persons so employed, and for the benefit of the public who so employed them. They were all perfectly familiar with the charges of a broker in commercial matters, they varied with the importance of the business done, because of the responsibility required, and the importance of the transaction; and, therefore, the attention that was to be given to the matter in hand varied. It was perfectly well known what was the manner in which attorneys were paid. As to gentlemen of the bar, the theory was they received nothing; but he believed it might be said that, as regarded the liberal and learned professions, it was expected its members should be paid, not in proportion to the mere labour and work done, but that the responsibility and importance of it must have some effect on the charges. It was perfectly notorious a broker on the Stock Exchange charged a per centage upon a transaction, and yet, beyond all doubt, it required no more than pen and ink to transfer 2,000l. than it did 100l.—the charge was in proportion, not as to the trouble and exertion of a man walking across from his back office to the Stock Exchange, and making one or two entries.—It was the management of the transaction. He (the judge) must say he did not view with that jealousy others did the charges made by architects and surveyors; he did not think the profession of an architect any more than any other liberal profession (and a liberal profession it was; was exalted, as far as his experience went, and as far as that experience had received any addition by what he had seen in courts of justice, with receiving an immoderate amount of remuneration.

Now, did the jury believe Mr. Fowler was entitled to his per centage on the present occasion?—If he was, he was entitled to a verdict; and if entitled to a verdict, it would then be for them to say for how much. He owned it did not appear to him the whole of the sum claimed of 534l. was distinctly made out, but there was evidence for their consideration as to some of it. The facts lay, in a very narrow compass. In 1841, the magistrates of the county of Devon intended to construct a lunatic asylum, and the plaintiff was ultimately selected as the architect to carry out their views. The two important documents in the case were a document signed by Mr. Fowler, March 2nd, 1841, and the memorandum or resolution, of the 6th of August in the same year, there being an interval of several months between the two. In the mean time Mr. Hardwick, another architect of eminence, had been consulted in the matter by the visiting justices, and it was in consequence of some report that came from him, he believed, that the plaintiff was ap-

* The fleur-de-lis is a very common ceiling ornament in timber-framed houses in various parts of the town, and the alteration may have been merely to comply with fashion.

* The figures introduced by the artist in the accompanying engraving are allusive to the King's recollection here.